

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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R 091157Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6905

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CG

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

REF: KINSHASA 2144

1. RESHUFFLE ANNOUNCED MARCH 8 SIGNALS NO POLICY SHIFTS. AS COMMUNIQUE CAREFULLY POINTS OUT, MOBUTU RETAINS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORMULATING NATIONAL POLICY. HOWEVER, EXPANSION OF POLITICAL BUREAU (PB) AND CHANGES IN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) SHOULD SERVE TO IMPROVE COORDINATION AMONG TOP LEADERS AS WELL AS BETWEEN NEC AND PB.

2. MOST NOTABLE CHANGE IN PB HAS BEEN TO BRING IN THREE NEW EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: STATE COMMISSIONER (SC) FOR NATIONAL ORIENTATION (SAKOMBI), SC FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS (SAMPASSA), AND SYG OF NATIONAL LABOR FEDERATION (KIKONGI). THUS MEDIA, YOUTH AND LABOR CAN FEEL THEY NOW HAVE REPRESENTATION IN WHAT IS KNOWN HERE AS "ORGAN OF POLICY CONCEPTION." REARRANGEMENT OF PECKING ORDER R CEC ("ORGAN OF

EXECUTION") FURTHER DEMONSTRATES NEW IMPORTANCE MOBUTU WISHES TO ATTACH TO MEDIA AND TO YOUTH.

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3. PRINCIPAL VICTIMS WERE KITHIMA AND NZONDOMIO WHO WERE LET DOWN GENTLY SINCE THEY REMAIN IN PB. KITHIMA HAS BEEN OVERWHELMED BY ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGE OF RUNNING REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND PARTY ACTIVITIES. HIS REPLACEMENT, ENGULU, IS LEVEL HEADED AND EXPERIENCED IN REGIONAL AFFAIRS, HE TOO GETS SEAT ON PB BY DINT OF HIS NEW JOB IN NEC, COMING IMMEDIATELY AFTER NEW POLITICAL DIRECTOR NGUZA. NGUZA IS ESSENTIALLY A DIPLOMAT, AND HIS PARTY EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN LIMITED COMPARED TO THAT OF HIS PREDECESSOR (MANDRANDELE). IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR HIM TO GROW INTO HIS NEW JOB. HIS DEPARTURE FROM DEPTFONAFF IS LOSS TO ANGLOPHONE EMBASSIES HERE SINCE HE WAS ONE OF FEW OFFICIALS IN DEPTFONAFF WHO SPOKE ENGLISH. HIS REPLACEMENT, UMBA DI LUTETE, WAS VICE FONMIN IN 1969, IS REASONABLY COMPETENT, AND IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD US. HOWEVER, HE WILL NOT BE BACKED UP BY AN ASSISTANT SC(THERE ARE NO ASSISTANT SCS IN CURRENT GOVERNMENT), WHICH MEANS THAT DURING HIS FREQUENT ABSENCES FROM COUNTRY DEPTFONAFF WILL COME TEMPORARILY UNDER ANOTHER SC, PROBABLY EKETEBI (TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS), WHO WILL HAVE OTHER THINGS ON HIS MIND THAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS WILL HAMPER OUR ACCESS SOMEWHAT.

4. RETENTION OF BOTH NDONGALA AND NAMWISI, WHO SIMPLY SWITCH JOBS, IS HEARTENING SINCE THESE ARE TWO OF MOST COMPETENT MEN IN GOVERNMENT. BOTH ARE FRIENDS OF EMBASSY. THERE HAD BEEN CONCERN THAT NAMWISI MIGHT BE OFFERED UP AS SACRIFICIAL VICTIM BECAUSE HE HAS HAD TO IMPLEMENT MANY OF THE NOVEMBER 30 ZAIRIANIZATION MEASURES, UNAVOIDABLY CREATING MORE ENEMIES THAN FRIENDS IN THE PROCESS. TAKIZALA, ENGULU'S REPLACEMENT AT PUBLIC WORKS, HAD HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE AS REGIONAL COMMISSIONER BUT DOES NOT APPEAR OTHERWISE QUALIFIED FOR THE POSITION. REASON FOR HIS APPOINTMENT STILL A MYSTERY.

5. EMBASSY OBTAINING ADDITIONAL BIO DATA.
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